

miles from Monticello, near the New London of this State, which I visit three or four times a year, and stay from a fortnight to a month at a time. I have fixed myself comfortably, keep some books here, bring others occasionally, am in the solitude of a hermit and quite at leisure to* attend to my absent friends. * * * Having to conduct my grandson through his course of mathematics, I have resumed that study with great avidity. It was ever my favorite one. * * * I have forgotten much and recover it with more difficulty than when in vigor of my mind I originally acquired it. It is wonderful to me that old men should not be sensible that their minds keep pace with their bodies in the progress of decay. * * * I have had a long attack of rheumatism without fever and without pain, while I keep myself still. * * * I take moderate rides without much fatigue; but my journey to this place in a hard-going gig gave me great suffering, which I expect will be renewed on my return as soon as I am able. The loss of the power of taking exercise would be a sore affliction to me. It has been the delight of my retirement to be in constant bodily activity, looking after my affairs. It was never damped, as the pleasures of reading are, by the question *cui bono?* for what object? * * * The sedentary character of my public occupations sapped a constitution naturally sound and vigorous, and draws it to an earlier close. But it will still last quite as long as I wish it. There is a fullness of time when men should go, and not occupy too long the ground to which others have the right to advance."

The beginning of 1812 was rendered memorable in Jefferson's life by his reconciliation with John Adams. This was brought about by their common friend, Dr. Rush, with whom Jefferson had several times discussed Adams' estrangement from him. Since Mrs. Adams' letter to Jefferson on the death of his daughter, in 1804, no communication had passed between the families. The correspondence of the two old men now became voluminous, and was henceforth uninterrupted. Adams' breadth of interest was narrower than Jefferson's, and he enjoyed comparative immunity from a burdensome correspondence. He